

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /026 W

----- 109755

R 121427Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1871

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, CGEN, SF (PEAY, MICHAEL)

SUBJECT: SAG INQUIRY RE PEAY VISA

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 97981

1. DAVID LOUW AT SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) CALLED US MORNING MAY 9 REQUESTING MESSAGE BE PASSED FROM SA DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR TO MACHAEL PEAY, VISITING DIRECTOR OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT OF LAWYERS COMMITTEE (REFTEL) THAT INTERIOR DEPUTY SECRETARY LINDEQUE WANTED TO SEE HIM. ESSENCE PROBLEM ACCORDING DFA WAS THAT PEAY HAD OBTAINED VISA IN LATE FEB WASHINGTON AS TOURIST ON "URGENT" BASIS THEN SHOWED UP IN SA IN MAY AS SASO TRIAL OBSERVER. HAD ALSO MADE STATEMENTS TO SA PRESS, INCLUDING FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN JOHANNESBURG AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER. (IN PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN, PEAY DID LITTLE MORE THAN IDENTIFY HIMSELF, EXPLAIN LAWYERS COMMITTEE AND NOTE THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO COMMENT ON TRIAL)

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED PEAY LATE AFTERNOON MAY 9 AND REPORTED SUBSTANCE LOUW'S REMARKS. PEAY TOLD US HE HAD OBTAINED VISA BEFORE JOINING LAWYERS COMMITTEE, AND HAD INTENDED TO VISIT SA ONLY AS TOURIST. UPON BEING APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT, HE DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH PLANNED VISIT

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AND TO COMBINE BUSINESS WITH TOURING. NOTED HE HAD BEEN

CAREFUL IN TALKING WITH SA PRESS WHICH HAD SOUGHT HIM OUT, NOT VICE VERSA.

3. BECAUSE PEAY PLANNED PROCEED DURBAN OVER WEEKEND, OFFICER- IN-CHARGE TELEPHONED LINDEQUE AT HOME AND EXPLAINED PEAY'S VERSION OF VISA. LINDEQUE SAID HE STILL REGARDED PEAY'S CHANGE IN PLANS AS FORM OF DECEPTION BECAUSE HE HAD "INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON" THAT ONLY PURPOSE OF PEAY'S VISIT WAS TO ATTEND TRIAL AND "EMB COULD TELL PEAY SO". HOWEVER LINDEQUE, AFTER LEARNING PEAY'S STAY IN SOUTH AFRICA HAD BEEN LIMITED TO JUNE 1 BY IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS, SAID HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO PEAY'S CONTINUING ON HIS PLANNED TRIP. NEVERTHELESS HE REQUESTED WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM PEAY ON HIS CHANGE OF STATUS. PEAY PREPARED THIS WHICH EMB IS FORWARDING MAY 12 TO LINDEQUE WITH COPY TO DFA.

4. WE DISCUSSED MATTER BRIEFLY FOLLOWING NIGHT WITH DFA DESK OFFICER AND NOTED TRIAL IS OPEN TO PUBLIC.
BOWDLER

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